المجلس الإسلامي
Islamic Council

PRESS RELEASE
14 May 1992

MUBARAK REGIME IMPRISONS HERO OF THE 1973 RAMADAN WAR

In a press release issued today, the London-based Islamic Council has severly denounced the imprisonment of General Saad el Din el Shazly by the Mubarak regime in Egypt.

General Shazly, a former chief of the Egyptian army, is a world-renowned hero of the 1973 Ramadan war. He is highly regarded in world military circles and honoured throughout the Muslim world for redeeming Arab honour by crossing the Suez Canal, smashing the Barlev Line, taking the Israelis by complete surpise and humiliating their arrogant armed forces.

In 1981 General Shazly, who was living in exile in Algeria, was tried in absentia by a secret military court for allegedly revealing military secrets in a book which he had written in 1979 about the 1973 war and was sentenced to 3 years hard labour in prison. General Shazly came to know about his trial and conviction only through the press.

After living for 14 years in Algeria, General Shazly returned to Cairo on 14 March 1992 and asked for a retrial in an open court. He has always refuted the allegations against him and is confident of proving his innocence if given an opportunity to defend himself at a free and fair trial.

However, immediately on his arrival in Cairo, General Shazly was arrested and, far from an open trial, the authorities have upheld the original sentence of the military court.

General Shazly is held at a secret prison, his lawyers have been denied access to the files relating to his case and his family is not allowed to see or communicate with him.

Compared to this shameful treatment of a national hero, the Mubarak regime the same week freed 4 agents of Israel's military intelligence service, MOSSAD, who had been convicted by an Egyptian court on charges of espionage.

The Islamic Council made an earnest appeal to human rights organisations world-wide to prevail upon the Mubarak regime to grant the retrial General Shazly seeks, and to which he is entitled, and that it should be fair and open and that he be given the necessary legal guarantees to enable him to defend himself adequately.